

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Horatio Lo, Sam Tam, David Lee, Dietmar M. Kurpanek  
Assignee: Vicom Systems, Inc.  
Title: DISTRIBUTED STORAGE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM ARCHITECTURE  
Serial No.: 09/904,824 Filed: July 12, 2001  
Examiner: Christopher B. Shin Group Art Unit: 2182  
Docket No.: VCM0002P1US

Austin, Texas  
August 17, 2004

**VIA FACSIMILE**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendment and Remarks are submitted for entry into the application serial number 10/827,068 filed on April 20, 2004 (this application being a continuation from application serial number 09/307,305 filed May 7, 1999). Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

No Amendments to the Specification are presented in this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

No Amendments to the Drawings are presented in this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

*COPY*